

W5YI

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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Vol. 24, Issue #4

\$1.50

PUBLISHED TWICE A MONTH

February 15, 2002

International Working Group Progress Report on WRC-2003

We covered the progress being made toward determining a U.S. Position on Amateur Radio issues at WRC-2003 in our last issue. The FCC's Informal Working Group (IWG-6) has agreed on Agenda Item No. 1.23 (realigning the HF broadcasting and Amateur allocations at 40 meters) and Item No. 1.71 (the basic rules for the Amateur Services including the Morse proficiency requirement when operating on frequencies under 30 MHz.)

The ITU and IARU are also working on Amateur Radio issues from an international standpoint. These are handled by ITU Working Group 1 (WG 8A1). They recently issued a progress report.

The document indicates that the ITU Working Group has met seven times "...and completed all assigned tasks, which included progressing the drafting of CPM text related to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services."

It listed 18 individuals who "participated in, and contributed to, the work of WG 8A1." They included representatives from Russia, Canada, United Kingdom, Cuba, Japan, Finland, France, Japan, Nigeria, The Netherlands, United States and the IARU." Those from the United States were Larry E. Price W4RA, Paul Rinaldo W4RI, and David Sumner K1ZZ.

The CPM - or Conference Preparatory Meeting - is an important assembly planned to take place in Geneva between November 18 and 29, 2002. Representatives from all over the world will meet to agree on the CPM Report ...a mammoth technical

document which analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of various options for addressing each of the WRC-2003 agenda items.

The draft CPM text is comprised of contributions from the various ITU member administrations, the ITU Radiocommunication Study Groups and other sources and must be completed by May of this year. It is structured to follow the topics of the WRC-2003 agenda. The initial draft CPM Report is distributed to all Member States of the ITU and to the various Radiocommunication Sector Members as the CPM Document. The final consolidated CPM Report to WRC-2003 is used to support the work of the conference and will contain over 500 pages.

The Working Group 8A1 report noted that *Recommendation ITU-R M.1544* (formerly RAM.QUAL) covering the recommended minimum qualifications of radio amateurs had been "...approved by circulation in August and is now in effect." We have previously published its text. The drafting group was chaired by Dave Sumner K1ZZ (IARU), Christian Rissone (France) and James "Ken" Pulfer VE3PU of Canada. Follows are some key points made:

PRELIMINARY CPM TEXT - CHAPTER 5

Maritime Mobile, amateur and amateur-satellite, and broadcasting services in MF and HF bands

5.2.1 Agenda item 1.7.1 - "possible revision of Article S25"

5.2.1.1 Article S25.1 - [Banned countries list] The conference may consider the suppression [elimination] of S25.1 prohibiting international communications under certain conditions. It is the sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunications. If a State chooses to prohibit

international communications, it should be the concern of the country to enforce this rule and not a general obligation.

Advantages

- Simplify the Radio Regulations.
- Clarify the status of international radio communications after a disaster occurs.
- Reduce the cost of ITU paper work regarding the notification for the objection of such communications.
- Still remaining the sovereign right of the State to regulate its communications.

Disadvantages

- None have been identified.

5.2.1.2 Article S25.2 – [Nature of communications] The conference may consider simplifying and shortening the text of S25.2, which defines the content of amateur communications. An example of such modification could be:

Mod. S25.2 § 2 1) When transmissions between amateur stations of different countries are permitted, they shall be made in plain language and shall be limited to messages of a technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character.

Advantages

- Simplify the Radio Regulations.
- Clarify the ambiguous wording.
- Take into account changes in telecommunications.

Disadvantages

- None have been identified.

5.2.1.3 Article S25.3 – [Third party traffic ban] The conference may further consider revising S25.3 with regard to international communications. As several countries currently allow this kind of communication, the general rule of the Radio Regulations should be to allow it unless an administration chooses to prohibit it. An example of such modification could be:

Mod. S25.3 2) It is absolutely forbidden for a Amateur stations to may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties unless modified by one of the countries concerned.

Advantages

- Simplify the Radio Regulations.
- Removes the burden for the administration.

Disadvantages

- None have been identified.

5.2.1.4 Article S25.4 – [Ban may be modified by arrangements between countries concerned] In consequence with the above proposal the conference may consider the suppression of S25.4.

Advantages

- Simplify the Radio Regulations.

Disadvantages

- None have been identified.

5.2.1.5 Article S25.5 – [Morse test may be eliminated or waived for operation above 30 Mhz. Only changes to the Regulation since 1925 concern te frequency which amateurs could operate without Morse test. 1948: 1000 MHz, 1959: 100 MHz, 1979: 30 MHz]

The conference may consider the suppression of S25.5.

5.2.1.5.1 Option 1

Advantages

- Suppression of RR S25.5 would give administrations further flexibility in revising and updating the qualifications related to the use of Morse code.
- Abolition of the requirement for the knowledge of Morse code in the HF bands will increase the number of radio amateurs available for communications during disaster situations.

Disadvantages

- [One administration is of the view that knowledge of Morse code determines the boundary separating users of the radio amateur service from other users.]
- Abolition of the requirement for the knowledge of Morse code in the HF bands will produce a significant increase in the number of radio amateurs licensed to operate below 30 MHz, possibly leading to a congestion of the amateur bands.
- [One administration is of the view that revoking the requirement for a knowledge of Morse code could lower the level of proficiency and possibly lead to infringements in parts of the amateur ranges.]

5.2.1.5.2 Option 2 – The conference may consider modifying RR S25.5. in such a way that Morse code is no longer mandatory but if a State chooses to require Morse code, it should be the concern of the country to enforce such a rule and not a general obligation. An example of such modification could be:

Mod S25.5 § 3 1) Any person seeking a licence to operate the apparatus of an amateur station shall prove that he is able to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals. The administrations concerned may, however, waive this requirement. in the case of stations making use exclusively of frequencies above 30 MHz.

Advantages

- Encourage the maintenance of the Morse code skill in the amateur services.

Disadvantages

- Discourage a global harmonization of amateur services. May discourage the development of amateur services.

5.2.1.6 Article S25.6 [Verification of qualifications]

5.2.1.6.1 Option 1 – The conference may consider modifying RR S25.6. An example of such modification could be:

Mod. S25.6 2) Administrations shall take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate the apparatus of an amateur station.

Advantages

- Text to be determined.

Disadvantages

- Text to be determined.

5.2.1.6.2 Option 2 – The conference may consider incorporation by reference of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544[RAM.QUAL] in S25.6.

Advantages

- This approach would give administrations increased flexibility in revising and updating the qualifications as appropriate in the context of rapidly evolving communications technology.

(Continued on page 9)

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LEAGUE VOTES TO "REFARM" NOVICE SPECTRUM

The ARRL Board voted at last year's annual meeting to have League President Jim Haynie, W5JBP appoint a committee for the purpose of updating the ARRL position on "refarming" (reusing) Novice spectrum. Although existing Novice tickets are able to be renewed and modified, the FCC's restructuring Order eliminated future Novice Class licenses since only three license classes (Technician, General and Amateur Extra Class) were continued after April 15, 2000.

The goal of the Spectrum Refarming Committee (later called the Novice Spectrum Study Committee) was to survey the membership and recommend a realignment of the Novice bands. Haynie appointed ex-ARRL President Rod Stafford W6ROD to chair the panel. A final report was scheduled to be presented to the Board at the January 2002 Board Meeting.

After receiving input from nearly five thousand respondents, Stafford presented the final committee recommendations to the ARRL Board of Directors at the League's 2002 Annual Meeting held January 18-19 at the DFW Airport Marriott South, in Fort. Worth, Texas.

As expected, the majority of responses from the Amateur community favored an expansion of the phone bands. Stafford asked the Board to support and file a petition containing the following request for changes in the phone, CW, digital and image mode portions of the following bands: (No change in CW/RTTY/Data-only subbands for General, Advanced and Amateur Extra Class.)

License Class	Current Band	Proposed	Additional
80 Meters, CW Only (Maximum power: 200 watts PEP)			
Novice/Tech+	3675-3725	3525-3700	+125 kHz
80 Meters, Phone/Image/CW/RTTY/Data (Max. 1500wPEP)			
General Class	3850-4000	3800-4000	+50 kHz
Advanced Class	3775-4000	3725-4000	+50kHz
Extra Class	3750-4000	3700-4000	+50 kHz

License Class	Current Band	Proposed	Additional
40 Meters, CW Only (Maximum power: 200 watts PEP)			
Novice/Tech+	7100-7150	7025-7125	+50 kHz
40 Meters, Phone/Image/CW/RTTY/Data (Max. 1500w PEP)			
General Class	7225-7300	7175-7300	+50 kHz
Advanced Class	7150-7300	7125-7300	+25 kHz
Extra Class	7150-7300	7125-7300	+25 kHz

License Class	Current Band	Proposed	Additional
15 Meters, CW Only (Maximum power: 200 watts PEP):			
Novice/Tech+	21100-21200	21025-21175	+50 kHz
15 Meters, Phone/Image/CW/RTTY/Data (Max. 1500w PEP)			
General Class	21300-21450	21250-21450	+50 kHz
Advanced Class	21225-21450	21200-21450	+25 kHz
Extra Class	21200-21450	21175-21450	+25 kHz

License Class	Current Band	Proposed	Additional
10 Meters, CW/RTTY/Data (Max. power: 200 watts PEP):			
Novice/Tech+	28100-28300	28000-28300	+100 kHz
10 Meters, Phone, CW (Maximum power 200 watts PEP):			
Novice/Tech+	28300-28500	No change	No change

License Class	Current Band	Proposed	Additional
10 Meters, Phone/Image/CW/RTTY/Data (Max. 1500w PEP)			
General Class	28300-29700	No Change	No Change
Advanced Class	28300-29700	No Change	No Change
Extra Class	28300-29700	No Change	No Change

Alternate 80/15 meter proposal approved

On motion of Rick Roderick, K5UR, Delta Division Director and seconded by Wade Walstrom, WØEJ, Midwest Division Director, it was unanimously agreed to amend the parts of the original (above) proposal regarding 80 Meters and 15 Meters to read:

License Class	Current	Proposal	Additional
80 Meters, CW, RTTY, Data (Max. power: 200 watts PEP)			
Novice/Tech+	3675-3725	3525-3725	+150 kHz
80 Meters, Phone, Image, CW (Max. 1500 watts PEP)			
General Class	3850-4000	3800-4000	+50 kHz
Advanced Class	3775-4000	3750-4000	+25 kHz
Extra Class	3750-4000	3725-4000	+25 kHz

License Class	Current	Proposal	Additional
15 Meters, CW, RTTY, Data (Max. power: 200 watts PEP)			
Novice/Tech+	21100-21200	21025-21200	+75 kHz
15 Meters, Phone, Image, CW (Max. 1500 watts PEP)			
General Class	21300-21450	21275-21450	+25 kHz
Advanced Class	21225-21450	21225-21450	No change
Extra Class	21200-21450	21200-21450	No change

IN OTHER ARRL BOARD MEETING NEWS:

• **The following Officers were elected:** President Jim Haynie W5JBP, First VP Joel M. Harrison W5ZN, additional VPs Kay C. Craigie WT3P and Fried Heyn WA6WZO, International Affairs VP Rodney J. Stafford W6ROD, Treasurer James McCobb W1LLU, Secretary and Executive VP David Sumner K1ZZ, Chief Financial Officer Barry J. Shelley N1VXY, Chief Operating Officer Mark Wilson K1RO, Chief Development Officer Mary M. Hobart and Honorary VP Mrs. Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR. Executive Committee Members: Frank M. Butler W4RH, Rick Roderick K5UR, Frank Fallon N2FF and Tom Frenaye K1KI. ARRL Foundation members Jay Bellows K0QB, Greg Milnes W7OZ, and Eugene Hastings W1VRK were re-elected for three-year terms.

• **The ARRL Board adopted a resolution** "...extending the organization's most sincere condolences to the families and friends of the Radio Amateurs who lost their lives on September 11, 2001" and "...commending and honoring all the Amateur Radio operators who generously volunteered their time and expertise during the rescue and recovery efforts on September 11 and thereafter."

• **The ARRL Board bestowed its International Humanitarian Award** to Jim Hirschman, M.D., K4TCV, a Miami doctor in recognition of his over 50 years of medicine and public service communications. Hirschman, as the "Fleet Surgeon" of the Waterway Net on 40 meters, combines his amateur radio and medical skills to give on-air advice on a moment's notice. His skills were put to

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the test in April 2000 when pirates attacked Jacco van Tuijl's (KH3TD) boat in the Caribbean Sea in April 2000 off the coast of Honduras severely injuring his 13-year old son, Willem. The van Tuijl family from the Netherlands had been cruising various parts of the world since 1995. They obtained their US Amateur Radio licenses during an extended stay in Guam. Jim provided live on-air medical assistance for over 9 hours until the U.S. Coast Guard could evacuate the boy to proper medical facilities. In a similar incident he provided critical medical advice to the crew of the Swedish sailboat "Lorna" when it was boarded by pirates and the skipper was severely injured.

- **A resolution was adopted by the ARRL Board confirming Amateur Radio's commitment** to effective emergency communications systems, including support for Homeland Security. The ARRL's Volunteer Resources Committee will perform an in-depth study of the League's programs related to emergency and public service communications, and present recommendations for modernizing, streamlining, and increasing their effectiveness to the Board at the Annual Meeting in January, 2003.

The ARRL's Volunteer Resources Committee will also look into the design and development of a distinctive garment similar to that used by Red Cross volunteers. It could be made available to ARES volunteers and worn by them when performing public service.

- **The League has proposed moving Section News and Contest Result line scores** from their QST monthly journal to their enhanced ARRL Web site in an effort to reduce ARRL operating losses while still affording a means of providing that information to ARRL members. The final decision has been deferred until the July, 2002 Board meeting. The Board did vote, however, to move the "Moved and Seconded" material from QST to the ARRL Web and other media.

- **The ARRL Spectrum Strategy Committee's Amateur Radio Interference Assessment (ARIA)** is made up of a group of five well-qualified members who will perform a noise study under approved test plan methodologies. The main goal of ARIA is to produce documented evidence of the interference being received by FCC-licensed services from unlicensed Part 15 devices.

- **The ARRL believes that the Communications Act does not entitle the FCC to permit unlicensed devices** which have substantial interference potential to licensed services. Their jurisdiction to allow the manufacture and sale of Part 15 devices must be premised on a finding that the devices will not cause interference to licensed services. The ARRL's Washington Advocacy team will file a *Petition for Reconsideration* in ET Docket 98-156 and formally comment in ET Docket 01-278. The ARRL will seek a clear statement from the FCC acknowledging the limit of its statutory jurisdiction to authorize Part 15 devices.

CQ VHF TO RESUME PUBLICATION AS QUARTERLY

CQ Magazine publisher, Dick Ross K2MGA has announced that CQ VHF magazine will resume publication as a quarterly beginning with the Spring 2002 issue. The magazine had been published monthly from 1996 to 1999. Longtime CQ magazine "VHF-Plus" Editor Joe Lynch, N6CL, will be Editor of the new quarterly. The first issue is due out in May.

"Nearly one third of a million Hams in the USA have license privileges primarily permitting operation on frequencies above 50 MHz," Ross said "...and a large but undetermined number of HF-licensed hams regularly operate above 50 MHz."

"VHF operators at all levels represent the overwhelming majority of active hams in the USA. However, the prime focus of the current ham radio magazines remains HF. More than half of the Amateur population in the USA has no publication that specifically addresses its needs and interests except in the most cursory manner." CQ said preliminary surveys of former readers and radio-amateurs have indicated a desire for CQ VHF to return.

CQ VHF was created six years ago to meet the needs of these amateurs and was an outstanding editorial success. However, a weak advertising and newsstand sales market made it economically unviable by the end of 1999. The new CQ VHF will rely primarily on subscription revenues to meet expenses. (Subscription rate: \$25 per year.)

The new CQ VHF will retain the friendly, conversational, look and feel of the original, but its technical content will be somewhat of a higher-level.

NEW QUESTION POOLS TO BE USED FOR 4 YEARS

The Question Pool Committee of the *National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators* released the Element 4 (Amateur Extra) Pool into the public domain on December 1, 2001. The pool released on that date stated that it was to be used for all examinations from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2005.

Note that this is a four year period rather than three years as previously was the case. This will enable the QPC to do a better job in developing syllabi and pools for the various examinations. It will also assist license preparation publishers by giving them a longer selling period for their study material.

The Element 2 (Technician) Pool that will be released into the public domain on December 1, 2002 will be used for all Element 2 examinations administered between July 1, 2003 and July 30, 2007. The Element 3 (General) Pool that will be released into the public domain on December 1, 2003 will be used for all Element 3 examinations given between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2008.

This schedule is obviously dependent on there not being another restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service during this time ...which there could easily be due to the Amateur Radio issues being considered at WRC-2003.

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CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Supermarket customers obtain a savings card by providing the store with certain personal information

...such as your name, address, birth date, and telephone number. Seven out of ten large grocery chains now use them.

Those supermarket "loyalty" cards that you use to get additional discounts will shortly have a new use. They will tell the store that you are in the store shopping so you can be linked to the buying habit information they have about you on file. In short, the grocery discount card of the future will be widely used as a vehicle to allow the grocery store to communicate with you!

Shopping carts are already becoming available with a small LCD screen mounted on the cart handle. You activate the "Klever-Kart" system by swiping your savings card against the screen. Using wireless technology, the cart communicates with the shopping aisle which will advise you of needed product locations and alert you to targeted promotions, specials and advertisements at the point-of-sale.

The Klever-Kart unit is the first wireless communication device ever developed to allow retailers to automatically communicate directly to their shoppers on a one-on-one personalized basis while they are shopping in a specific area of a store.

Klever-Kart is the brain-child of Klever Marketing of Salt Lake City, Utah. As you roam about the store, the LCD screen flashes ads for products you usually purchase ...even tells you that you are due to buy a specific item based on your previous buying history. Your activity throughout the store is carefully tracked for marketing purposes.

Each time the card is used, the store records every item purchased at the checkout which is transferred to the customer's database. Some stores send out mailings based on the shopping history. Check out: <www.kleverkart.com>.

But not everyone is in favor of the new technology. Privacy advocates in particular are outraged. They say the cards exchange savings for personal information and a profile of your shopping habits. Shoppers who are opposed to grocery savings cards have their own organization called "Consumers Against Supermarket Privacy Invasion and Numbering." See: <www.nocards.org>.

EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

Verizon Wireless has begun rolling out its "Verizon Express Network" ...its introductory version of a 3G network. In doing so, it has become the first to launch the much heralded "third generation" wireless telephone network in the United States. Analog cellular phones are 1G, digital phones 2G and data-enabled digital phones are called 2.5G.

The major carriers - Verizon, Sprint PCS, Cingular and AT&T Wireless - have all been racing to become the first to roll out the new 3G service. Japanese company NTT DoCoMo launched the world's first 3G network in Japan last September. Customers there can now make video calls. Sprint and AT&T are set to launch their 3G service later on this year.

3G promises to do for mobile communications what cable modem and DSL service has done for land lines. It will bring access to the Internet, full e-mail service with attachments and other rich multimedia applications to your mobile phone and laptop computer at high "always-on" connection speeds. Users will have to buy a special 3G phone (or card for their laptop computer) to access the service.

The new 3G service was enabled on January 28th. Some Verizon subscribers with the right hardware will begin getting a 40-60Kbps connection ...comparable to a dial-up modem. Verizon's speed - which will eventually go to 144 Kbps -- is far short of the promised transmission speeds in excess of 2Mb. Pricing starts at an additional \$30 per month.

Fixed-line telephone networks and dial-up ISPs marketshare to plunge!

Wireless will become the preferred connection. That's the bottom line of a new survey from Forrester Research.

"Consumers are turning away from secondary telephone lines in favor of cheaper wireless service and widely available broadband, marking the beginning of the end for conventional telecommunications networks."

Forrester predicts that by 2006, five and a half million consumers will give up their second phone lines and 2.3 million will drop their primary land line, costing today's telecom giants nearly \$9 billion.

Forrester also predicts that broadband providers' offering of Voice-on-the-Net

(VON) will take voice business away from traditional telephone companies. VON is expected to displace more than 4 million traditional lines within five years.

"This means that traditional service providers, which today own 57 percent of the consumer telecom budget, will see their share reduced to 36 percent in the next five years." <www.forrester.com>.

NAB To Battle Echostar-DirecTV Merger. In a \$32 billion deal, EchoStar Communications Corp., the nation's No. 2 satellite TV provider, is trying to buy rival (Hughes Electronics Corp) DirecTV - the nation's top satellite company.

If anti-trust regulators, the FCC and the FTC approve the merger, the combined companies would control the 15 million user DBS industry. The satellite services provide an alternative to cable TV.

The combined services would be able to eliminate much of their duplication and could use their capacity to add high-speed Internet access, interactive TV and more high-definition television to their lineup.

EchoStar says it is more than a satellite company and would not create a monopoly. They believe the battle is not between satellite companies, but between satellite and cable. Currently, about 80 percent of the nation's pay-TV customers have cable, as opposed to satellite service.

The National Association of Broadcasters fiercely opposes the merger. NAB says the EchoStar-DirecTV deal would "...end the competition that currently exists between satellite companies, depriving consumers of future innovations and price battles that competition has otherwise yielded, particularly in rural America."

A combined EchoStar-DirecTV merger would also provide enough local channels to cover the nation's top 100 TV markets. At present, DBS providers only provide local television service to a few large cities.

Media mogul, Rupert Murdoch (News Corp.) plans to make another try at buying DirecTV if the merger fails. It would add the missing U.S. piece to Murdoch's satellite empire that already includes Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

Fighting fires in high rise buildings.

A story in the January 30th New York Times blames failed radio communications between firefighters as one of the reasons for the many deaths at the World Trade Center disaster on September 11th.

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"When cellphones and land lines failed on that Tuesday morning, fire officials had to rely on two-way, hand-held radios that worked only sporadically and whose operation at high-rise fires had long been maligned."

The NYFD had already bought new digital radios last year to replace the existing analog models ... "But the new radios were pulled from service after a trapped firefighter's call for help went unheard by some of his colleagues."

"Several fire officials said the digital models had been used as a test at a two-alarm fire in the World Trade Center last March and performed without incident. But the radios worked well only after an antenna, or signal booster at the trade center, had been turned on. That booster, as it turned out, was hit by falling debris on Sept. 11 and rendered inoperable."

COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE

AOL Time Warner is suing Microsoft Corp. in federal court over their alleged anti-competitive practices involving Netscape's Web browser. AOL now owns Netscape. The Netscape Navigator was the number one web browser until Microsoft began giving its giving its competing Internet Explorer away as part of their operating system.

Netscape now only has a tiny share of the Internet browser market ...about 4 percent. Microsoft has about 91 percent. AOL wants Microsoft to pay damages.

The AOL suit seeks injunctive relief "...to prevent further antitrust injury to Netscape, and an award of treble damages to be determined at trial."

Netscape says that "...due to Microsoft's actions it lost browser licensing revenues; lost browser market share that would have led to other significant sources of revenues; its marketing and distribution costs were increased; it lost goodwill and going concern value; and it lost the profits it said would have existed."

Another e-mail-borne worm that attacks the vulnerability of the Microsoft's Outlook e-mail client is making the rounds. The "Klez" mass-mailing worm is capable of deleting anti-virus program files and a lengthy list of other files. This worm sends itself to entries in the Windows address book.

The worm, which executes its payload on the 13th of January, March,

May, July, September and November, causes certain files on hard drives to become zero bytes in size.

The body of the message is an appeal for a job and the virus may have originated in China. It has a wide variety of subject lines. Information and a patch for the vulnerability can be found at: <www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS01-020.asp>.

Last year was the biggest year yet for computer virus infections! And 2002 will probably be worse. Few computers escaped receiving the Anna-Kournikova, Magistr, Goner, Kak, Code-Red, Nimda, Sircam or BadTrans viruses.

MessageLabs, which specializes in e-mail security, reports that last year it scanned over 3 million emails per day and intercepted an e-mail virus every 18 seconds! That compares with one every three minutes in 2000 and one every hour in 1999.

GADGETS & GIZMOS

Consumers developing film from traditional cameras can get a Kodak Picture CD with the photos for a few dollars more than the regular price of developing and printing a roll. Eastman Kodak is working with DVD chipmakers to incorporate technology into decoder chips that allows DVD players to read Kodak's Picture CDs and display them on television screens.

Apple co-founder and legendary computer hardware designer Stephen Wozniak is forming a new company to develop innovative consumer products based on wireless and global positioning satellite technologies.

The new company has been named "Wheels of Zeus," or "Woz" ...his nickname. Venture capitalists have already coughed up some \$6 million to get the firm going. It plans to have its first products finished sometime next year.

But another new company may have already beaten Wozniak to the marketplace. The GPS Personal Locator from Wherify Wireless, Inc. (Redwood Shores, CA), won the "Best of Innovations Award" at the 2002 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) held January 8-11 in Las Vegas.

Wherify's GPS Personal Locator is a rather bulky wristwatch designed to be

worn by a child and features a locking device so that it can not be taken off.

Through the convergence of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and digital wireless technologies, the miniaturized, wrist-worn locator offers a way for parents to accurately locate their children, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It also can receive up to ten alphanumeric pages.

Parents, whether at work, home, or traveling, can use the Internet or any phone to quickly identify their children's location within a few feet. A subscriber simply contacts the Wherify's Location Service Center over a toll-free "800" number or goes online.

The Location Service Center links all location information together, including mapping, direction of their child's travel, location history, emergency response and other features for parents wanting to locate their children.

In the event of an emergency, either the child or parent can request an emergency 911 response and local police will be dispatched to the child's location. Cost: "less than \$400." Available this summer. <www.wherifywireless.com>.

INTERNET & WORLD WIDE WEB

Buying online - which usually carries no sales tax - is proving to be quite popular. The investment community was caught by surprise when Amazon.com posted a profit in the fourth quarter last year for the first time. And they said things look good for the future.

Amazon.com made \$5.1 million compared with a net loss of \$545.1 million a year earlier. Revenue rose 15% to \$1.12 billion for the quarter. Amazon expects 2002 sales to reach \$3.5 billion.

Amazon.com has begun selling online subscription content. The

Internet Movie Database is a new website designed specifically for people who work in the entertainment industry. It tracks the popularity of 300,000 movies and one million actors/actresses listed in a database. Amazon.com, which owns the huge movie entertainment database, offers a subscription for \$12.95 a month, or \$99.95 a year. Also included is detailed box-office data, news and comment, and an industry calendar of releases and events. Check: <pro.imdb.com>

Since the online advertising market has soured, advertisers are

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resorting to more aggressive tactics to get your attention. Annoying "pop-up" and "pop-under" ads are everywhere. Those are advertisements that mysteriously appear on your PC from nowhere ...either on top of ...or underneath a requested web page.

Every time they appear on your computer, the host site receives a small fee. The problem is that they apparently are very effective ...both in terms of promoting traffic for a specific advertiser and as a revenue producing vehicle for the host so they won't go away. Even large, well respected sites (like Yahoo!) are selling them. In fact, pop ups/unders have gotten so widespread that advertising tracking firm, Jupiter Media Matrix reports them in a separate category.

But you can eliminate them with pop-up ad-detection blocking software. There are many of them with names like "Pop-Up Killer", "Pop-up Eraser", "AdsOff" and "Pop-up Stopper." Some are free and you can easily find out about them by using a search engine.

Norway-based Opera, the No. 3 browser (after Microsoft's Internet Explorer and AOL-owned Netscape) gives users a button to click that will either accept pop-ups, convert them to the pop-under variety or refuse them altogether.

By the way, some 6 million people worldwide use the Opera browser ...a well-kept secret. There is a new Version 6.0 which is available free at: <www.opera.com>. At least read the FAQ at: <www.opera.com/press/faq>

Airport to offer free wireless Internet service. The *Minneapolis Star Tribune* reports that travelers passing through Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport will soon "...be able to sit in the coffee shop and use their laptops or handheld devices to access corporate networks and the Internet at high speeds." Cost will be free to all!

Travelers who want to access the Internet via a laptop or handheld will need to have a "Wi-Fi" (wireless fidelity) card installed in their computer. Some computers are sold with such cards.

Installation of the network began in late November, and it is on schedule to be operational March 1. The project will cost about \$250,000 which is being underwritten by various corporations.

The Twin Cities airport will be the first of five major airports to get a uniform wireless network. Others are the

Newark, JFK, LaGuardia and Detroit Metro airports.

In addition, the system will include 15 existing Internet kiosks in the main terminal area that are being converted to wireless. They can be used by travelers who don't have a laptop and want to pass time surfing the Internet while waiting for their plane. Their access is not free. They can insert a credit card and pay a daily fee estimated to be between \$6 and \$8.

QRZ.com now has new daily updated Amateur Radio Census figures on their website. You will find it at: <www.qrz.com/census.html>.

At the end of January there were:
Extra Class 97,810; Advanced 86,365;
General 138,365; Tech Plus 84,882;
Technician 232,942 and Novice 39,928.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

The U.S. Government has set up a series of fake websites to warn unsuspecting investors of potential investment scams. One such website promotes McWhortle Enterprises Inc., a company that supposedly has developed a handheld biohazard detector that uncovers the presence of anthrax or other deadly germs.

McWhortle Enterprises does not exist. It is a complete fabrication, posted by the Securities and Exchange Commission to alert investors to potential on-line frauds.

The SEC even issued a fake news release saying the company was about to go public. The <www.mcwhortle.com> hoax website has already received more about 200,000 visits!

High tech anti-terror gadgetry will be out in full force at Winter Olympics.

Newsweek reported in its February 4th issue how the Utah's Special Emergency Response (SWAT) Team and the U.S. military is gearing up for the Salt Lake City Olympics. "No expense is being spared in the interest of protecting 2,600 athletes, 175,000 daily spectators and the 1.8 million wary residents of metro Salt Lake City..." The security budget is some \$310 million.

The Olympic area will be "...covered by 5,100 uniformed troops, 7,000 public-safety officers and 2,100 fire and EMS personnel." And local businesses have hired another 6,000 private security personnel. The U.S. Secret Service is charged with overall security

During the Games, all incoming non-commercial aircraft must stop at "buffer" airports, where they'll be searched. A 100-mile restricted-flight area will become a no-flight zone during the opening and closing ceremonies.

Some 400 cameras will constantly send images back to a command center. "Sharpshooters on skis, snowshoes and snowmobiles will carry ...night-vision monoculars, thermal-vision binoculars...." Global-positioning satellites will keep track of Olympic athletes.

One-Call-Stops-All telemarketing is being proposed by the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC is backing a new scheme to get rid of those aggravating telemarketing calls. Having an unlisted phone number reduces but doesn't eliminate them since random digit dialing devices are able to determine all possible phone number combinations.

The FTC wants to establish a national registry of people who don't want to receive them. You would simply call and leave your number to avoid future telemarketing calls. Those in violation would be fined \$11,000 a call. Telemarketers are strongly opposed, arguing that a federal crackdown would be an unconstitutional limitation of free speech.

The Direct Marketing Association's (DMA) has a "don't call" list, but it is voluntary. Simply stated, telemarketers don't have to follow it. To get on the list send your name, address and phone number: Telephone Preference Service, Direct Marketing Assoc., P.O. Box 9014, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014. There is no charge if you sign up by postal mail. But DMA makes it more difficult to do it online. It costs \$5 at the DMA's website located at: <www.the-dma.org>.

Does your phone ring and there is no one on the line? That is usually the result of "predictive dialing" technology. To increase the efficiency of telemarketers, a computer dials many phone numbers in a short period of time. When a consumer answers, the computer seeks a sales representative who is not occupied at that time and connects the call. If all of the operators are on calls, the consumer hears dead silence. It is happening more and more.

You can also tell telemarketers to put you on their own "do not call" list. Federal laws requires them to maintain and honor such lists. This system won't work on the automated voice recording variety which are becoming more prevalent.

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AMATEUR RADIO STATION CALL SIGNS

...sequentially issued as of the first of February 2002:

Radio District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen.	Group D Novice
0 (*)	AB0TT	KI0SB	(***)	KC0MFR
1 (*)	AA1ZM	KE1MB	(***)	KB1HTR
2 (*)	AB2RE	KG2RO	(***)	KC2JAT
3 (*)	AA3YK	KF3EC	(***)	KB3HMN
4 (*)	AG4NY	KV4GF	(***)	KG4RHG
5 (*)	AD5HJ	KM5XN	(***)	KD5REE
6 (*)	AE6BP	KR6EW	(***)	KG6JOT
7 (*)	AC7QR	KK7XB	(***)	KD7PSM
8 (*)	AB8MK	KI8KC	(***)	KC8SYP
9 (*)	AB9DX	KG9RA	(***)	KC9AYZ
N. Mariana	NH0Z	AH0BB	KH0NP	WH0ABP
Guam	(**)	AH2DO	KH2WA	WH2AOC
Hawaii	(**)	AH6RD	KH7ZZ	WH6DGR
Am. Samoa	AH8WV	AH8AI	KH8DP	WH8ABF
Alaska	(**)	AL7RR	KL1HF	WL7CVN
Virgin Isl.	(**)	KP2CS	NP2LU	WP2AIN
Puerto Rico	WP3T	KP3BN	WP3OZ	WP4NOW

* = All 1-by-2 and 2-by-1 call signs have all been assigned. AA-AK-by-2 now being assigned.

** = All 2-by-1 call signs have been assigned.

*** = Group "C" (N-by-3) call signs have all been allocated in all districts. (K-by-3 and W-by-3 are not assigned under the sequential call sign system. Available only to the Vanity Call Sign system.)

Note: The following prefix numerals are now allocated to Puerto Rico (KP, NP, WP3 or 4), Hawaii (AH, KH, NH, WH6 or 7) and Alaska (AL, KL, NL WL1-0)

[Source: FCC Amateur Service Database, Washington, DC]

FCC IS ONCE AGAIN ISSUING VANITY CALL SIGNS

After nearly a 3 month hiatus due to the Anthrax scare and the necessity to sanitize paper-filed Vanity call sign applications, the FCC began issuing Vanity call signs on Jan. 9th to those applicants who filed on Oct. 15th.

There were no Vanity call signs issued between January 9 and 22. Now (as of January 23) the FCC has started issuing Vanity call signs once again. Here is a list of Vanity calls issued to radioamateurs whose applications were filed by the W5YI Group. (Go to: <www.w5yi.org> and click on "Vanity Call Signs" for more info.)

Name, Previous Call	Filed on	Now	Effective
Gregory Z. Golian, KD5PZT	10/16/01	WA8LEQ	1-23-02
Varon B. Smith, Jr., KF6ZBH	10/16/01	WS6V	1-23-02
Jerome R. Radcliffe, N8RHV	10/17/01	N8OS	1-24-02
Robert T. Godlewski, KX6RTG	10/17/01	WH7USA	1-24-02
Robert E. Carpenter, KG6HOY	10/18/01	WW6G	1-26-02
Jerry G. Knighten, AD5FV	10/19/01	WW5KK	1-26-02
Brad R. Reichert, N7UHR	10/19/01	AB7BR	1-26-02
George Nincehiser, KD5QBV	10/19/01	K5GDN	1-26-02

ARRL STRONGLY OPPOSES RF-ID TAGS IN 70-cm BAND

The American Radio Relay League is very concerned that the Commission has proposed, in its *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order*, FCC 01-290, released October 15, 2001, to permit Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) systems to operate in the 425-435 MHz band.

The Commission proposes to permit "periodic" radiators to operate in this band at peak field strengths of up to 110,000 $\mu\text{V/m}$ measured at a distance of 3 meters, and continuous levels of up to 11,000 $\mu\text{V/m}$.

On Jan. 14, 2002, ARRL officials met with FCC staff members as part of the League's effort to stave off the band threat to 70-cm. At that meeting, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, delivered an ex parte presentation to FCC Office of Engineering and Technology staffers. At issue was SAVI Technology's plan - already tentatively agreed to by the FCC - to deploy unlicensed transient RF identification devices between 425 and 435 MHz at much higher field strengths and duty cycles than Part 15 rules now permit for devices configured as such.

RF identification tags are used to track and inventory parcel shipments and vehicles. Once owned by Texas Instruments and Raytheon, Savi is now a privately held company, with headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif.

Imlay told the FCC that "...this was the worst possible choice of bands for these RFIDs" adding that "there was no technical justification for that choice of frequencies." The request to use 70-cm has more to do with economics than technology, he said, because SAVI needs to bring down the cost of RFIDs in order to make a profit. The ARRL plans to file "strongly worded" comments on the SAVI petition by the Feb. 12 comment deadline. Reply comments are due by March 12, 2002.

The ARRL's January 14 ex parte presentation was complemented by an interference study prepared by ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, and ARRL Senior Engineer Zack Lau, W1VT. The presentation supported the ARRL's assertion that the proposed signal levels would cause "...substantial interference to amateur stations in excess of 1000 meters from the RFID transmitter."

The League also maintains the FCC lacks the statutory authority to permit the RFIDs as unlicensed devices under Part 15 in the configuration SAVI has requested. The ARRL argues that under the *Communications Act of 1934*, such devices with substantial interference potential must be licensed. It wants the FCC to move such RFIDs to another band, such as an Industrial, Medical and Scientific (ISM) allocation.

A copy of the ARRL Ex Parte Presentation interference study is available on the ARRL Web site at: <www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-1005/SaviExParte.pdf>.

(Adapted from ARRL Bulletin No. 8, Jan. 29, 2002.)

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Disadvantages

- Incorporation by reference would require that a user look in two different places in the Radio Regulations to determine the relevant requirement.
- Incorporation by reference in general has raised contradictory opinions. It may not be a feasible method for amateur radio qualifications.

5.2.1.6.3 Option 3 – The conference may consider modifying RR S25.6 and incorporation by reference of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544[RAM.QUAL] in S25.6. An example of such modification could be:

Mod. S25.6 2) Administrations shall take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate the apparatus of an amateur station. A person seeking a licence to operate an amateur radio station shall be required to demonstrate a knowledge of the topics specified in ITU-R M.1544 [RAMQUAL].

Advantages

- Text to be determined.

Disadvantages

- Text to be determined.

5.6 Agenda item 1.23 [Allocation alignment at 7 MHz] – "to consider realignment of the allocations to the amateur, amateur-satellite and broadcasting services around 7 MHz on a worldwide basis, taking into account *Recommendation 718 (WARC-92)*" – "Alignment of Allocations in the 7 MHz band allocated to the amateur service"

5.6.1 Summary of technical and operational studies

Studies in response to Recommendation 718 (WARC-92) have been ongoing in ITU-R for a number of years.

The purpose of carrying out a realignment of the bands around 7 MHz is to remedy the long-standing difficulties experienced by the amateur service and the limitations placed on the broadcasting service as a result of the changes made to the frequency bands around 7 MHz at the Atlantic City WARC in 1947.

Historically until the 1938 Cairo Conference the band 7000–7300 kHz was allocated exclusively to the amateur service. Conditions in Europe and Asia lead to the reduction to 7000–7150 kHz in ITU Regions 1 and 3. A final reduction to 7000–7100 kHz took place at WARC-59. The Region 2 allocation remained unchanged at 7000–7300 kHz amateur exclusive.

For the amateur service the usefulness of the allocations around 7 MHz for worldwide links are limited because only 100 kHz of spectrum between 7000 and 7100 kHz is common to Region 2 and Regions 1 and 3. The 7100–7300 kHz band is allocated exclusively to the broadcasting service in Regions 1 and 3, and exclusively to the amateur service in Region 2. Given the large disparity in signal levels between the two services, broadcasting transmissions cause interference to the sensitive receivers used in the amateur service during periods of good propagation between Regions 1 and 2. The degree of interference experienced in Region 2 varies with time-of-day, season, solar activity and

distance from broadcasting stations in other regions.

It is essential that information on sharing between the services involved in the 7 MHz realignment is available to guide the discussions at WRC-03. Fortunately, much of the information on sharing scenarios in the HF bands is to be found in the Report of JIWP 10-6-8-9/1 (25 October 1990) concerning "Compatibility considerations arising from the allocation of spectrum to HF broadcasting". This study, which formed Section 5 of the CCIR Report to WARC-92 (Doc. 3), is still valid and was reproduced in the Report of the Director to WRC-2000 in response to Resolution 29 (WRC-97) (see Attachment 1 to Document CMR-2000/5). The study concludes that:

- 1) the sharing of frequency bands by the amateur and broadcasting services is undesirable and should be avoided, because of system incompatibility between broadcasting and amateur services. (See RR Resolution 641 (Rev.HFBC-87));
- 2) the aeronautical mobile (R) service cannot share with other services within a Region, because it contains safety of life communications;
- 3) above 6 MHz the aeronautical mobile (OR) service operates to a Plan and cannot share with other services, because it contains safety of life communications;
- 4) maritime mobile international distress and calling frequencies cannot be shared with other services except for search and rescue operations (e.g., concerning manned space vehicles) because it contains safety of life communications;
- 5) above 4063 kHz, the maritime mobile service operates to a Plan and does not share with any other service except fixed in the band 8100 to 8195 kHz, because it contains safety of life communications;
- 6) the land mobile service is now sharing with the maritime (except international calling and distress frequencies), fixed and amateur services;
- 7) the fixed service is now sharing with the land mobile, maritime mobile (except international calling and distress frequencies) and amateur services. Some sharing with the broadcasting service has been adopted within the broadcasting band extensions agreed by WARC-79 and WARC-92. (See S5.147);
- 8) dynamic frequency sharing or real time frequency management is a useful tool for providing communication circuits that are not otherwise possible because of interference constraints. Dynamic sharing implies operation on a secondary basis where there is no possibility of a claim for interference-free communication. This type of sharing is possible with frequency-agile transmitting and receiving equipment made feasible by modern technology. Dynamic frequency sharing is enhanced when one service operates with high power on known or published frequencies, such as the broadcasting service and the dynamic service operates with low power involving two-way communications such as in the fixed, mobile and amateur services. No. S5.147 gives an example of bands in which dynamic sharing is possible; [text to be developed]

5.6.2 Analysis of the results of studies

The following factors were identified during the studies as conditioning the search for a viable solution:

- 1) the fixed, land mobile and amateur allocations around 7 MHz support many important national and international applications, including those with a humanitarian and disaster relief

dimension, which are particularly suited to the propagation characteristics of these bands;

- 2) any solution requiring sharing of spectrum between amateur and broadcasting services is not desirable, since experience has shown that this is unacceptable in the long run;
- 3) the entire 300 KHz is required in Region 2 for the Amateur service;
- 4) some movement in frequency of the allocation to the amateur services around 7 MHz may be acceptable;
- 5) a reduction of the amount of contiguous spectrum allocated to the broadcasting service in the 7 MHz band is unacceptable to broadcasters, but there is flexibility with regard to the actual location of this band;
- 6) attention should be given to the spectrum requirements of the land mobile service below 7 MHz;
- 7) spectrum allocated to the maritime mobile, aeronautical mobile (OR), and aeronautical mobile (R) services should not be considered for reallocation;
- 8) the band 6765-7000 kHz has been identified as essential for supporting fixed service operations of all types;
- 9) sharing between the amateur service and the fixed and mobile services may be possible;
- 10) the realignment should involve the minimum necessary shift in allocation blocks in order to limit the economic impact on users; [text to be developed].

5.6.3 Methods to satisfy the agenda item and their advantages and disadvantages

5.6.3.1 Option 1 – The Conference could consider modifications to Article S5 that would provide a worldwide exclusive allocation to the amateur service of 7000-7300 kHz and a worldwide primary allocation to the broadcasting service of at least 250 kHz of contiguous spectrum above 7300 kHz.

Advantages

Amateur service

Global harmonization.

Conforms with the present Region 2 amateur allocation.

Removal of inter-regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.

Spectrum requirements will be met in Regions 1 and 3.

Broadcasting service

Global harmonization of 7 MHz broadcasting band.

Spectrum gain in Region 2.

Improved relationship between the 7 MHz broadcasting band and the 6 MHz and 9 MHz broadcasting bands, to meet changing propagation.

Removal of inter-regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.

Fixed and land mobile services

No impact on important fixed and land mobile networks below 7 MHz.

Disadvantages

Broadcasting service

Economic impact of broadcast spectrum shift.

Fixed and land mobile services

Impact on fixed and land mobile services above 7 350 kHz.

Could be compensated for partly by upgrading land mobile to primary status and partly by use of adaptive techniques.

5.6.3.2 Option 2 – The Conference could consider modifications to Article S5 that would provide a worldwide primary allocation to the amateur service of 6900-7200 kHz with 6900-7000 kHz shared with incumbent services and a world-

wide primary allocation to the broadcasting service of at least 250 kHz of contiguous spectrum above 7 200 kHz.

Advantages

Amateur service

Global frequency harmonization.

Removal of inter-regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.

Spectrum requirements will be met in Regions 1 and 3.

Broadcasting service

Global harmonization of 7 MHz broadcasting band.

Spectrum gain in Region 2.

Somewhat improved relationship between the 7 MHz broadcasting band and the 6 MHz and 9 MHz broadcasting bands, to meet changing propagation.

Removal of inter-regional amateur/broadcasting incompatibility.

Disadvantages

Amateur service

Major operational constraints caused by sharing below 7000 kHz.

Economic impact of spectrum shift.

300 kHz exclusive spectrum requirement is not met.

Broadcasting service

Economic impact of spectrum shift.

Fixed and land mobile services

Major operational constraints caused by sharing with the amateur service at 6900-7000 kHz that could be compensated for partly by upgrading land mobile to primary status and partly by use of adaptive techniques.

Impact on fixed and land mobile services above 7350 kHz.

Could be compensated for partly by upgrading land mobile to primary status and partly by use of adaptive techniques.

5.6.4 Regulatory and procedural considerations

If one of the above methods is adopted the appropriate consequential amendments to the RR would need to be considered, and appropriate transition procedures developed that take into consideration the requirements of all affected services. An implementation date of [1 April 2007] is satisfactory to the amateur service.

[A rearrangement of the allocations for the amateur and broadcasting services around 7 MHz on a harmonized worldwide basis that is based on the larger of the Regional allocations to each service will impact on the allocations to the fixed and land mobile services in the adjacent bands. Two complementary mitigation techniques are, however, available.]

[One mitigation technique is the greater use of frequency adaptive systems. The other is to recognize that, in the MF/HF bands, the characteristics of the fixed service and the non-planned mobile services - the land mobile service, in particular - often become so close as to be indistinguishable. This is certainly the case from a circuit planning perspective. It will therefore be advantageous to change the allocation designations for the bands currently allocated to the fixed or non-planned mobile services to denote shared primary use by the fixed and land mobile services. Such merged generic fixed/mobile allocations will allow greater flexibility in the use of the bands involved and also facilitate the use of frequency adaptive techniques, thereby leading to greater efficiency in the use of the spectrum.]

[Excerpted from ITU Working Group 8A1 progress report]